policy of procurement of telecom equipment and stores. Unutilized equipments due to change in requirement are redeployed.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Status of India as chip design centre

431. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGI REDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India can become a Chip Design Centre in the world;

(b) if so, whether the country has enough technical talent to cater to the existing and future demand from the Industry; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to make India as a Centre of Chip Designing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, as the area is hi-tech and fast changing, continuous efforts to train and nurture talent would be required. A programme to develop special manpower for Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI)/chip design and related software involving 19 institutions is under implementation since 1998. It is proposed to expand the programme to include more institutions and emerging areas of applications during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Out of order mobile telephones in Uttaranchal

†432. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that B.S.N.L's services in the State of Uttaranchal often remain out of order; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.